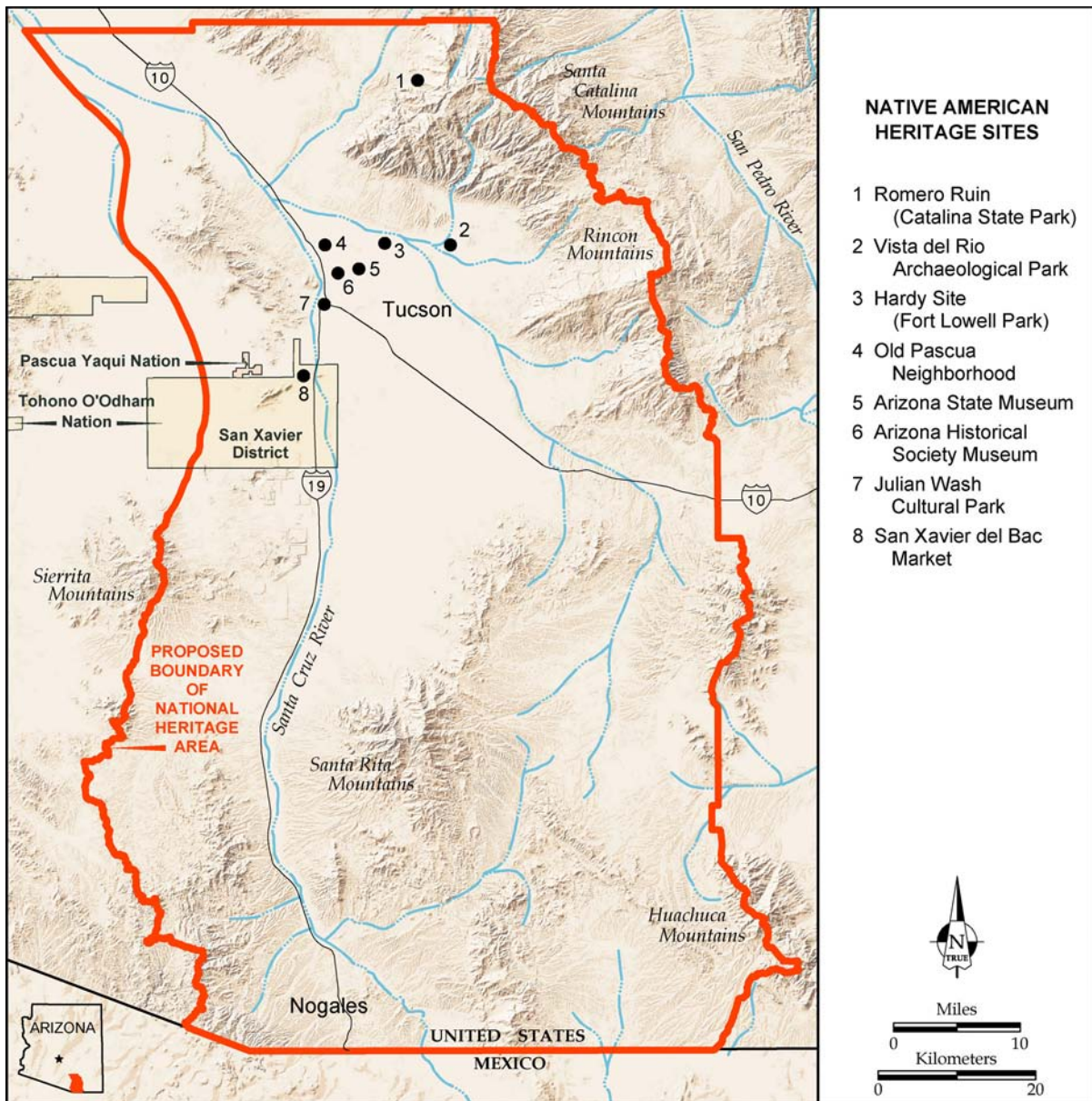


Heritage sites located in the “Sky Islands and Desert Seas” of the proposed National Heritage Area.

Related Resources

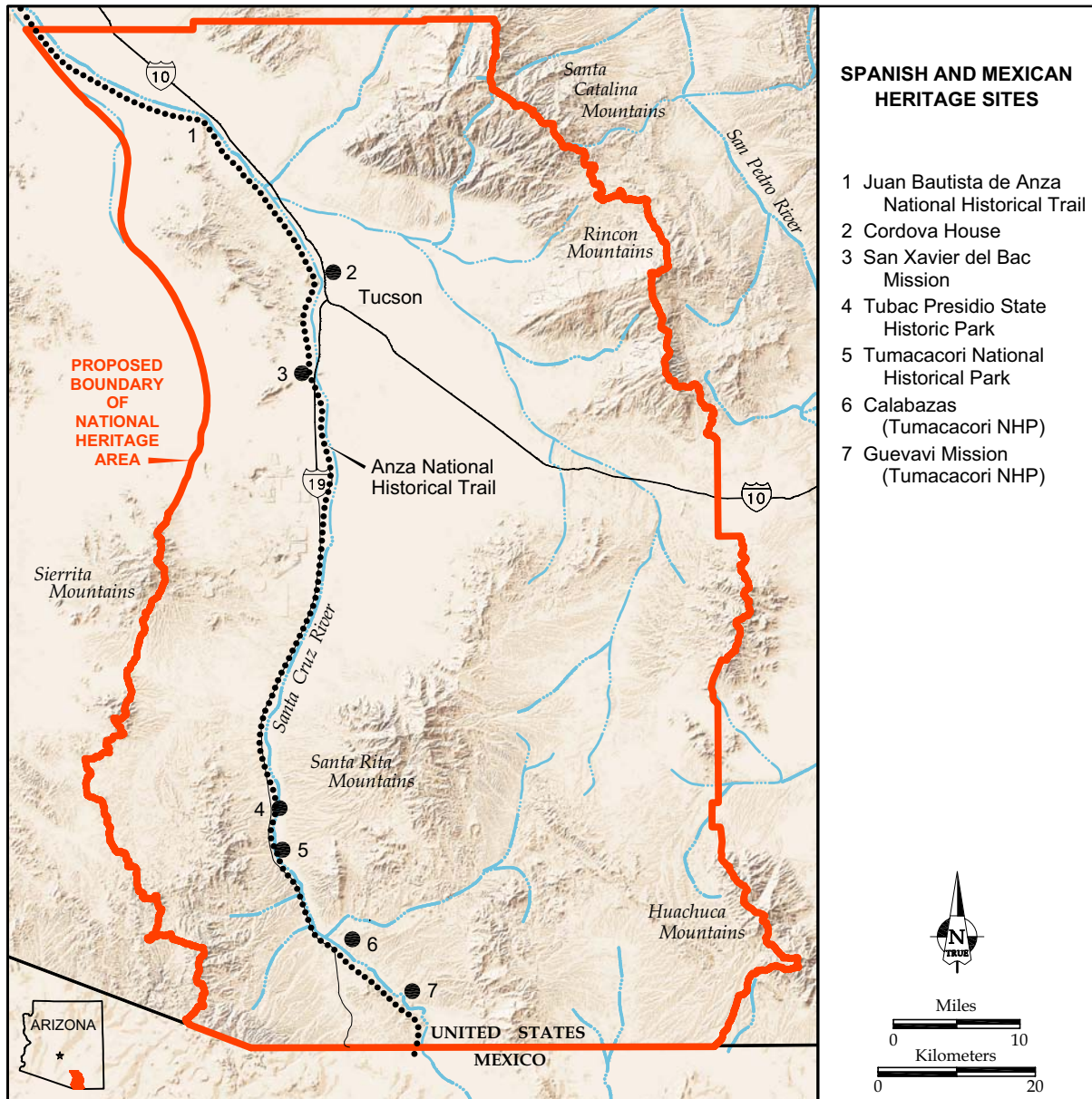
Numerous places in the Santa Cruz Valley are available to the public, where they can experience and learn about Sky Islands and their surrounding deserts. Coronado National Forest includes all of the major mountain ranges, the Sky Island Scenic Byway (Mount Lemmon Highway), and the Madera Canyon and Sabino Canyon recreational areas. In the Santa Catalina Ranger District, the Palisades Visitor Center and Sabino Canyon Visitor Center have exhibits about Sky Island geology and natural history. Sky Island landscapes and wildlife can also be explored in Saguaro National Park (East and West Units), Catalina State Park, Colossal Cave Mountain Park, Tortolita Mountain Park, and Tucson Mountain Park. The natural histories and ecologies of Sky Islands and the Sonoran Desert are interpreted at Saguaro National Park, the Arizona-



Native American heritage sites in the proposed National Heritage Area.

Valley and the rest of the Tucson Basin. Plazas became the central features of villages, the largest of which also had Mesoamerican-style ballcourts by about A.D. 800. By A.D. 1000, villages were spread out along expanded canal systems. Ballcourts were no longer built in the Tucson Basin and most other Hohokam areas after about A.D. 1050.

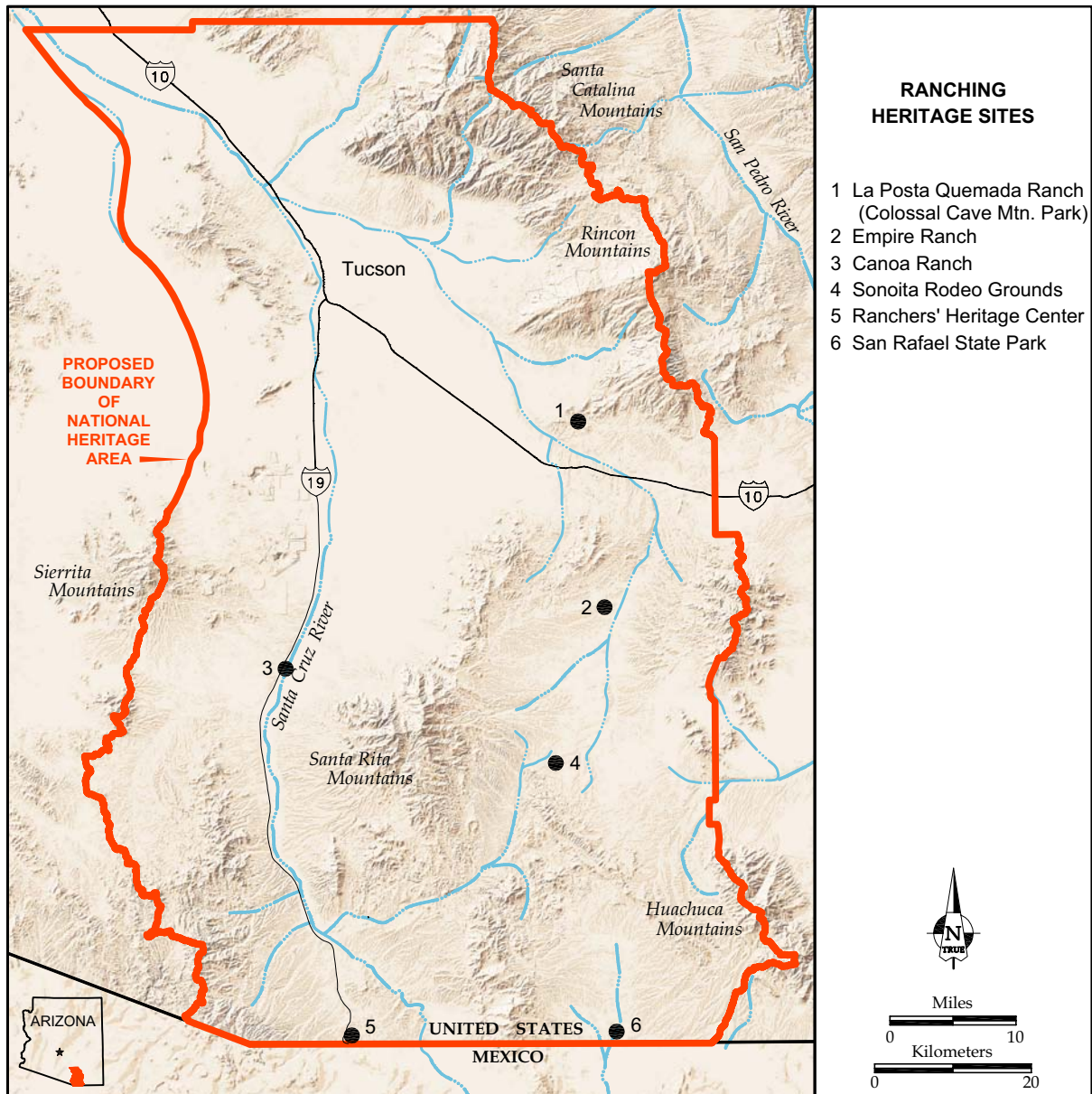
Beginning approximately A.D. 750, villages in the upper Santa Cruz Valley were also influenced by the Trincheras culture centered in Sonora. For the next several hundred years, the valley was a borderland between these two Sonoran Desert cultures, which were blended in local communities. The valley was also a corridor of trade in locally made seashell jewelry, pottery, and probably cotton textiles, as well as macaws and copper items from Mesoamerica.



Spanish and Mexican heritage sites in the proposed National Heritage Area..

both local residents and visitors from across the nation and the world. The Spanish and Mexican heritage of the region is one of the reasons that have compelled an increasing number of tourists to explore the Santa Cruz Valley.

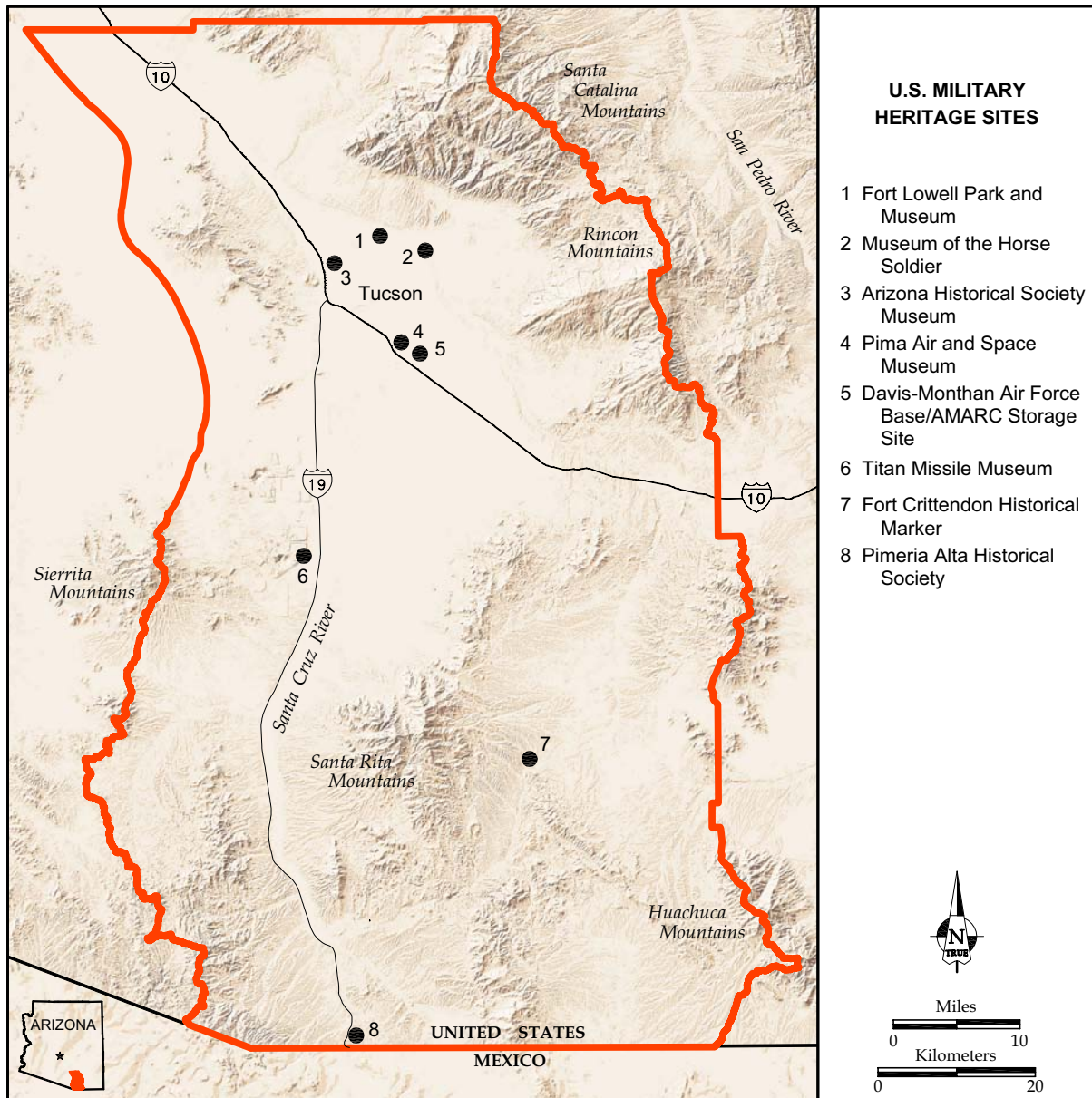
The Native Americans who lived along the course of the Santa Cruz River – the Pimans and Papagos (today known as the Tohono O’odham, or People of the Desert) – had probably heard stories of the newcomers heading north before these strangers actually traveled through the region. The 1530s and 1540s saw a handful of Spanish expeditions journey through the southeastern part of what is today Arizona. The first permanent Spanish presence in the Santa Cruz Valley was the cattle ranch established by Jose Romo de Vivar in 1680, at San Lázaro on the upper reach of the river, in what is now Sonora. However, more significant interactions



Ranching heritage sites in the proposed National Heritage Area.

The early years of the Mexican Republic saw turmoil throughout the country. Warfare continued, and by the 1840s, most Mexican ranches in the Santa Cruz Valley were abandoned and cattle herds grew wild. American travelers through Arizona in the 1840s reported vast herds of wild cattle, and range conditions were noted as excellent. However, by the 1850s, wild cattle were exterminated from the Arizona range. The cause was simply the continuous slaughter of wild cattle by Apaches, American soldiers, civilians, and gold-seekers crossing Arizona in the 1850s. These forces overwhelmed the natural ability of the animals to reproduce.

An era had literally come to an end, but it is clear that the introduction of cattle and other livestock during the Spanish and Mexican periods forever changed the Native population and created a legacy of cattle ranching and traditional land uses in the Santa Cruz Valley.



United States military heritage sites in the proposed National Heritage Area.

and Central and South America, where it exercises supervision of all U.S. Air Force assets in the counternarcotics mission in USSOUTHCOM area. Its supervision extends to all reserve wings in the western United States and eight active combat wings in the west. The Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center provides temporary and permanent storage for all government aircraft, usually about 5,000 aircraft of all types. Flying HH-60 Pavehawk helicopters, the Reserve 305th Rescue Squadron, and the Special Operations Command 563rd Rescue Group are available to perform rescue missions worldwide.

Adjacent to Davis-Monthan is the headquarters of the U.S. Customs Service in this large area of the border. A significant portion of the aircraft ramp is set aside for use of a small unit from the 162nd Fighter Wing, the largest Air National Guard unit in the United States. Here, air